Government to contain the prices of vegetable oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The total production of vegetable oils has been estimated at 64 lakh metric tonnes during 1994-95 which is the highest ever level of production of edible oil. The target fixed for 1995-96 is 65 lakh metric tonnes based on the production target of oilseeds at 225 lakh tonnes.

The seasonal gap between demand and supply of edible oils in the country as well as the play of market forces result in the fluctuations of prices of edible oils.

(c) In order to stabilise the prices of edible oil, the Government has taken the following steps:—

(i) reduction in the customs duty on imports of edible oils under OGL to 30%

(ii) STC has been authorised to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of Palmolein for PDS supply at 20% duty.

(iii) NDDB has been allowed to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of edible oils at 20% duty.

(iv) To improve the indigenous production of oilseeds Oilseeds Production Programme has been in operation to augment the production of oilseeds for which assistance is being provided to the farmers on various inputs.

(v) To provide better incentives to farmers through fixation of higher minimum support prices of oilseeds.

लौह अयस्क के उत्पादन के लिये संयुक्त उद्यम

637. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी:** क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में लौह अयस्क के उत्पादन के लिये पश्चिमी बंगाल, उड़ीसा, मध्य प्रदेश, बिहार और गुजरात में संयुक्त उद्यम स्थापित करने हेतु वर्ष 1993-94 और 1994-95 के दौरान कितने आवेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं;

(ख) 31 मार्च, 1995 तक संयुक्त उद्यम स्थापित करने संबंधी जिन प्रस्तावों की स्वीकृति दी गई है, उनका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) कितनी कम्पनियों के आवेदन अभी भी सरकार के विचाराधीन हैं?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव): (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

Involvement of Panchayats and Nagar Palikas in Promotion of Culture

638. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals that have been formulated to involve Panchayats and Nagar Palikas in the promotion of culture in the country;

(b) whether any allocation of funds has been made for the aforesaid purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Action to formulate a scheme to involve the local bodies in the cultural development at the grass-root level has recently been initiated.

Irregularities at Asiatic Society, Calcutta

639. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports of irregularities in the maintenance of accounts of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta;

(b) whether a committee of enquiry is proposed to be set up to probe the alleged irregularities and suggest remedial measures; and